

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Claims 11-16 remain active in this application.

The claimed invention is directed to an offshore pipe comprising a layer of a syntactic polyurethane comprising a polyol component which comprises a polyetherpolyol and an oil based on C₆₋₂₅ fatty acids and comprising hollow microspheres.

Applicants amendment of October 2, 2008 references additional experimental evidence. Such evidence is now presented via the declaration of Peter Huntemann, a named inventor of the above-identified application.

Mr. Huntemann tested the hydrolytic stability in an artificial seawater test of a syntactic polyurethane containing a polyol component containing 10-90 wt. % of an oil based on C₆₋₂₅ fatty acids as compared with a composition containing less than 10 wt. % of a C₆₋₂₅ fatty acid. Contrary to applicant's description on October 2, the polyurethane composition were tested as **2s shapes (dog bones) with a thickness of 4 mm** and not as cubes with a length edge of 25 mm. Table 1 is as follows:

Components (parts by weight)	Example	Comparative Sample
Castor oil	58.75	2.5
Polyol 1 ¹	30	43.9
Polyol 2 ²	-	31.65
Dipropylene glycol	7.3	18
Additive	3.95	3.95
Hollow microspheres	42	42

¹Based on propyleneoxide with an OH-number of 104

²Based on propyleneoxide with an OH-number of 55

The additive contained a catalyst, defoamer and moisture scavenger added in 2.5 pbw of castor oil. The polyisocyanate component was Iso PMDI 92050, a diphenylmethanediisocyanate.

The shapes (dog bones) were stored in artificial seawater at a temperature of 80°C and the water uptake was measured at time intervals of 7 days, 14, days and 28 days. The data is as follows:

Water content after days (wt.%)	example	Comp example
0	0	0
7	2.0	3.6
14	2.3	3.8
28	2.0	3.7

The data demonstrates an increases uptake in water, indicative of hydrolysis of the syntactic polyurethane for the comparative sample containing only 2.5 pbw of castor oil as compared with the example containing 58.75 pbw of castor oil. Such an improvement in hydrolytic stability from the addition of a fatty acid oil to the polyol component is not suggested by the cited references.

As the cited references fail to suggest an improvement in hydrolytic stability by the addition of a fatty acid oil to the polyol component, the claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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